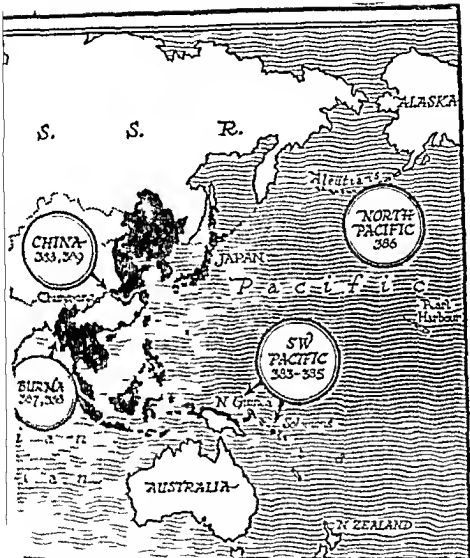


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AN ATLAS¹ HISTORY OF
THE SECOND GREAT WAR

by
J. F. HORRABIN

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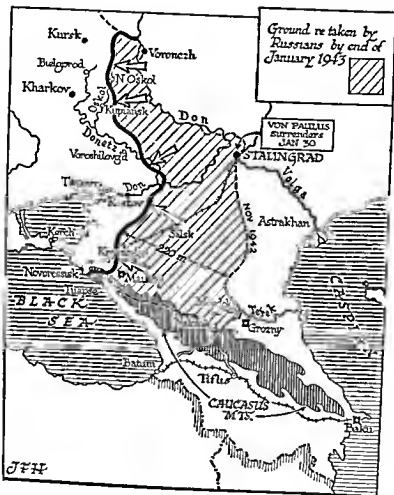
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AUTHOR'S NOTE

ON the day that the last map of this volume was completed came the announcement of Mussolini's fall. It is tempting, on this one page of a volume otherwise devoted to the recording of past events, to hazard a guess as to what history has in store in the near future. But since that near future will also be past by the time these words are in print, it will be safer, perhaps, merely to quote President Roosevelt's words to his Press Conference in July, "This, surely, is the beginning of the end." The war happenings chronicled in this volume—the Russian winter and summer offensives, the Tunisian campaign leading on to the invasion and conquest of Sicily, the intensive air bombing of Germany—can already be seen as pointing the way to still more tremendous developments. This, indeed, is a volume of "fore-shadowings."

J. F. H.

August 1943



The Russian Counter-offensive Continues—

THE Red Armies' counter-attacks north and south of Stalingrad in the middle of November 1942 had developed by the end of the year into a great counter-offensive along the whole 800-mile southern front, from Voronezh to the central Caucasus. During January the Russian advance continued relentlessly. Rostov was threatened both from north-east and south, and the German forces in the Caucasus were being pushed back towards the Kerch Strait. The encircled German army at Stalingrad held on, with frightful losses, until the end of the month. According to Russian estimates it numbered, when first surrounded in late November, 220,000 men. By the middle of January these had been reduced by disease, frost, and casualties to 80,000. In the last two days before the final surrender on 30th January, 45,000 were taken prisoner. "The German Army," said Mr. Churchill in Cairo, "has received wounds which I am sure will be mortal." The Nazi Government ordered three days' mourning throughout Germany.



The Donetz Crossed—

FEBRUARY saw the advancing Russians retake Kursk, Bielgorod, and Kharkov ; and strike south and west from the middle Donetz in an effort to cut off the Germans retreating from Rostov (re-entered on 14th February). On this central part of the front Russian advanced forces had penetrated well west of the line from which the original German attack had begun in the previous summer. South-west of Kharkov they were nearing the Dnieper. In the bend of the Donetz and Don, north of Rostov, they had freed a vitally important economic region.

In the extreme north of the front the German positions round Orel held firm ; while in the south, though the Russians reached the eastern shore of the Sea of Azov, the German bridgehead covering the Kerch Strait and Novorossisk was resolutely defended.



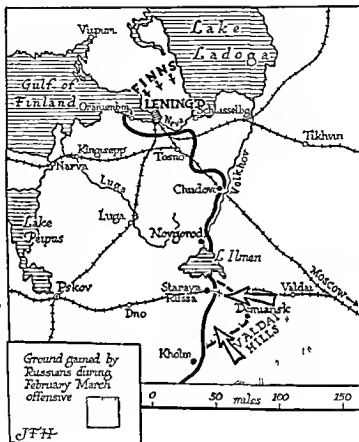
German Counter-attack—

DURING the last days of February German counter attacks in the Donetz bend began to threaten the Red Armies farther west. As these counter blows developed they compelled a general Russian withdrawal to the line of the upper and middle Donetz. On 15th March only twenty seven days after they had been driven out of it, the Germans re entered Kharkov, and a few days later they retook Bielgorod. But the Russian armies stood firmly on the Donetz, and with the coming of the spring thaws the front became stabilized. *Fighting on the eastern front* was for a time confined to areas farther north (see later map), where winter conditions still to some extent held



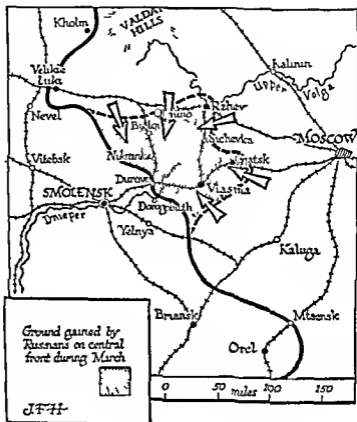
The Winter's Achievement—

THE map illustrates the extent of the territory reconquered by the Red Armies on the southern front between November 1942 and March 1943. Economically as well as strategically the area was of great importance, including the oil region of the northern Caucasus, the wheatfields of the Kuban and the Don, and part at least of the industrial Donetz Basin. In his Order of the Day on 23rd February—twenty-fifth anniversary of the Red Army—Marshal Stalin, after referring to the regions which had been liberated, stated that during the three months of the Soviet offensive 112 German divisions had been smashed, and the Red Army had taken 300,000 prisoners. "The mass expulsion of the enemy from our Soviet land has begun."



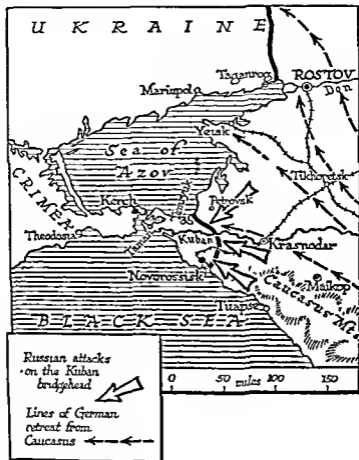
Timoshenko Strikes in the North—

At the same time as the Germans launched their counter-attack in the Donetz bend, in the last days of February, Russian forces under the command of Marshal Timoshenko struck on the northern front, 150 miles south of Leningrad, to the south-east of Lake Ilmen. Here the German army which had escaped encirclement at Staraya Russa a year previously had established a strong defensive position in the region of Demiansk. In eight days' fighting the Russians cleared this area, taking 3,000 prisoners, and so straightened out the front between Staraya Russa and Kholm.



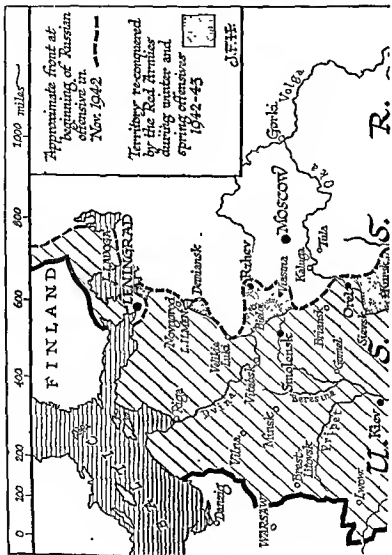
The Moscow-Smolensk Front—

ON the central front, west of Moscow, the Russians were also attacking during the last week of February. Much of the fighting in this area was over the same ground as a year ago (*cf.* Map 263, Vol. VI), but the 1942 drives north and south of the Moscow-Smolensk railway had left the two "hedgehog" defence positions of Rzhev and Viasma in the enemy's hands. Now, early in March, Rzhev fell to the Russians after furious fighting; and within a few days they had also taken Gjatsk and Viasma. Their westward advance finally brought them to Durovo, 50 miles from Smolensk. The whole German double-salient pointing towards Moscow had thus been liquidated. In the last days of August the advance on Smolensk was resumed, and Yelnya, 50 miles south-east of the city, was captured.

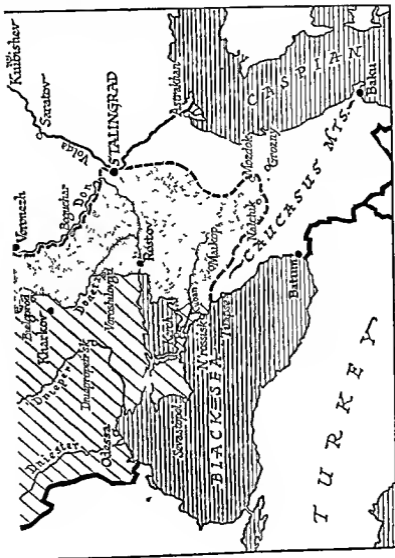


The Kuban Bridgehead—

FIGHTING went on almost continuously from February onwards in the one small corner of the Caucasus still in enemy possession—the area around the mouth of the Kuban River and Novorossisk. The Russians kept up a relentless pressure which steadily reduced the extent of the German bridgehead, and on several occasions made landings in the rear of the enemy. There was intense air fighting from both sides. But the Germans, reinforced from the Crimea, were still holding on in August.



Spring, 1943—



The Eastern Front:

Spring, 1943—

For three months after the German counter-attack in the south had retaken Kharkov and pushed back the Russians to the Donetz line there was relative quiet, except for the fighting in the Kuban, along the whole eastern front. June came and ended, but no great German summer offensive developed. Activities on both sides were largely confined to air bombing raids; the Russians (see Map 372) carrying out a series of attacks on railway centres behind every section of the German front, and the Germans raiding as far east as the Volga cities of Gorki and Saratov.

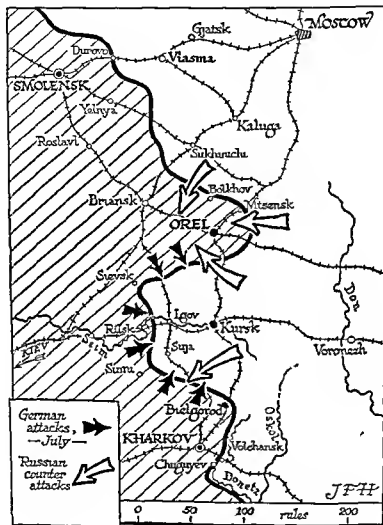
As the map of the entire front shows, the Soviets' winter gains had shortened the fighting line by some hundreds of miles. The great bulge into the Caucasus had been eliminated, and the salient west of Moscow straightened out. The most important "bends" in the line were now those around Orel and Kursk.

But it was clear that, whether or not they proved able to mount a summer offensive on anything like the scale of preceding years, the German armies still had the power to hit back. They had foiled the Russian effort to reach the Dnieper crossings, and prevented the attempt to cut off their forces in the Donetz bend. They still held on to the Kuban tip of the Caucasus, so strengthen-

ing their hold on the Crimea and blocking any large-scale Russian landings in the rear of their southern front.

Late in May, General von Dittmar, the Berlin military commentator, made a notable broadcast declaring that Germany would thenceforth wage a defensive war only. But in the first week of July came, at last, a German offensive on the Orel-Kursk sector of the central front (*cf.* following map). It was made in great strength. It failed completely. On 24th July, in an Order of the Day, Marshal Stalin was able to announce that "the German plan for a summer offensive must be considered completely frustrated." From the defence, the Russians passed over without pause to a smashing offensive. They struck north, east, and south of Orel, and on 5th August captured both that city and Bielgorod, farther south. Still the Red Armies swept on towards Briansk and Kharkov. . . .

Kharkov was taken by storm on 23rd August. The second city of the Ukraine, a key-point of the whole southern front, was once more in Russian hands. Meantime the offensive was resumed farther south, and on 30th August Taganrog, on the coast, 50 miles west of Rostov (*cf.* Map 356), was taken by the Russians.



The Nazis Fought to a Standstill—

THE German attack on the Orel-Kursk salients was made with the heaviest weight of armour ever concentrated in a single sector throughout the whole war. For a day or two it succeeded at various points, and wedges were driven into the Russian defence lines. Both sides suffered enormous losses. "If one is to judge in terms of the troops and planes engaged, and the daily casualties," said Alexander Werth in a broadcast from Moscow (10th July), "this week's fighting is at twice the intensity of the Stalingrad battle at its height." But Russian stubbornness and superior Soviet air-power stemmed the tide. The Germans were fought to a standstill, and, without pause, Russian counter-attacks began. North, east, and south of Orel the Red Armies struck heavily; farther south, near Bielgorod, they regained the ground the Germans had won.

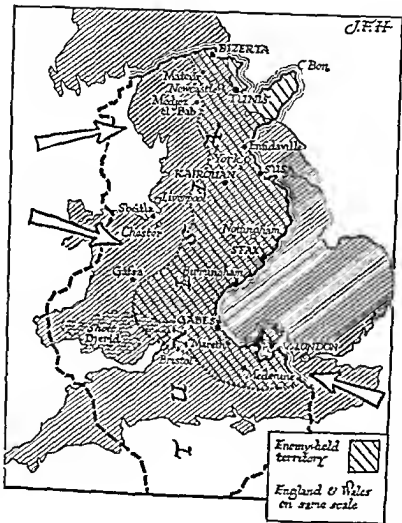
A year before, starting from a little east of Kursk, the Germans had advanced nearly 100 miles to the outskirts of Voronezh within seven days. This year, a few days after their attack was launched, they were giving ground all along this line. By the end of August the Russian line ran from Yelnya (south-east of Smolensk) to just east of Bryansk, and thence south through Rievsk, Rylsk, and Sumi, to a point on the railway 90 miles west of Kharkov.



The Eighth Army reaches Tunisia—

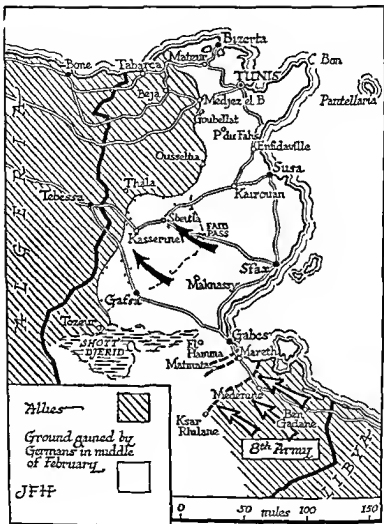
THE last remaining piece of Axis territory in Africa—the Tunisian coastline and its hinterland—was enclosed, at the beginning of 1943, between two Allied forces: the British, American, and French armies from Algeria, which had narrowly missed reaching Bizerta and Tunis in December; and the Eighth Army, advancing along the coast road from Libya. The German reinforcements which had been poured into the country by air and sea had succeeded in occupying all the coast towns.

The British First Army held the hill positions, running from the northern coast to Medjez-el-Bab, to which they had had to withdraw when the first effort to break through to Tunis failed. Farther south, Americans and French had advanced to the region of the Faid Pass, and a move forward here towards the coast would have threatened to cut off Rommel's retreat to the north. The Eighth Army, pursuing Rommel, crossed the frontier into Tunisia during the second week of February.



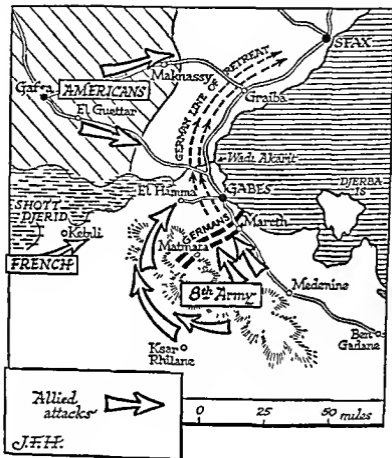
The Tunisian Battlefield—

The field of operations in Tunisia, as regards area and distances, was small compared with the long-drawn-out Libyan coastline already traversed by the Eighth Army. From El Alamein to the Tunisian border was a distance of some 1,500 miles. From the border north to the city of Tunis was another 300. But it was certain that Rommel's army would now do its utmost to delay a further British advance; and that both it and Von Arnim's forces in the north would hold on as long as possible to this one foothold of the Axis outside Europe.



Von Arnim's Counter-thrust—

As the Eighth Army felt its way from the Libyan border to Rommel's defence positions in the Mareth-Medenine area, Von Arnim's armoured forces in central Tunisia struck at the Americans threatening Rommel's line of retreat. In the Gafsa and Faid Pass sectors the Germans drove westwards towards Tebessa, the Allied base on the Algerian side of the frontier, and there was bitter fighting in the region of the Kasserine Pass, 40 miles from that place. Here they were checked, and Allied counter-attacks had by the end of February regained the lost ground. In the north, German attacks on the Beja-Medjez positions were repulsed.



Montgomery turns the Mareth Line—

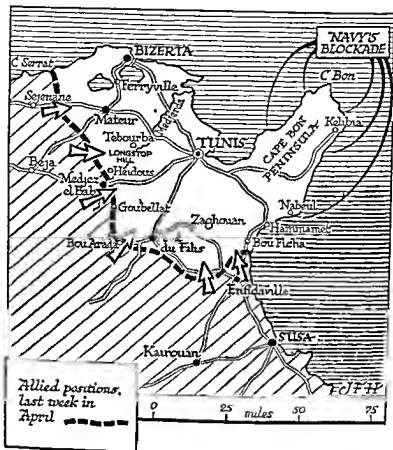
ON 21st March the Eighth Army made a frontal attack on the Mareth line, Rommel's main defence position. A bridgehead was forced through the centre of the line, but after two days' desperate fighting this was retaken by the Germans. General Montgomery then changed his line of attack, sending a strong column of New Zealanders and tanks into the Matmata hill country, west of the Mareth defences. This force took El Hamma, 25 miles behind Mareth, and Rommel was compelled to withdraw in haste. His remaining troops escaped through the Gabes gap and along the coast road northward only just before the New Zealanders closed in on Gabes itself, and the Americans striking down the road from Gafsa approached the coast.



Rommel's Last Retreat—

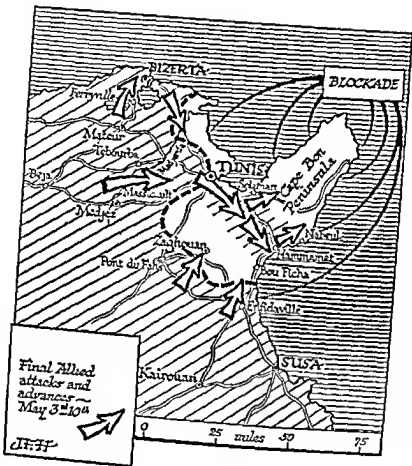
AFTER smashing a stand by Rommel's rearguard on the Wadi Akarit, north of Gabes, the Eighth Army took up the pursuit along the coast. It joined hands with the U.S. Second Corps from Gafsa on 7th April. Three days later it entered Sfax, and by the 12th had reached Susa. Meantime the Fighting French, in the centre, pushing eastwards to Kairouan, made contact with the advancing British. The Germans were now established in a defence line running inland from Enfidaville.

French and Americans in the north were driving in along the coast road, and the British First Army had gained ground towards Pont du Fahs.



Tunisia : The Final Battle (1)—

ROMMEL's and Von Arnim's forces, under the command of the latter, were now enclosed in the north-eastern tip of Tunisia, covering the towns of Bizerta and Tunis. On 22nd April the Allied armies began the final assault—French and Americans on the left, the First Army on the Medjez-Bou Arada sectors in the centre, and the Eighth Army on the right, along the Enfidaville line. Violent battles ensued, particularly in the Heidous and Longstop Hill region, in the Medjerda valley, north of the road from Medjez to Tunis. On 3rd May the U.S. forces took Mateur. Three days later armoured forces of the First and Eighth Armies combined struck from Medjez, and by the following day had broken right through to Tunis, taking the Germans there completely by surprise. On the same afternoon the Americans entered Bizerta.

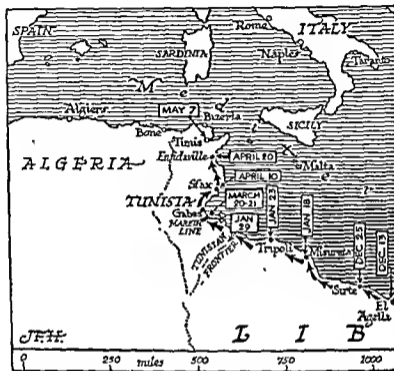


Tunisia :

The Final Battle (2)—

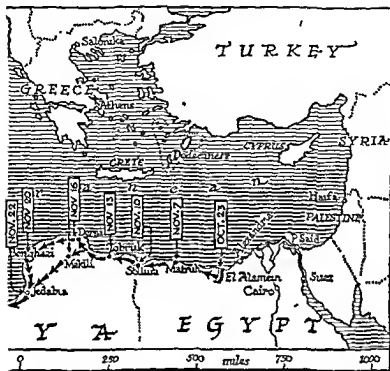
WITHIN four days of the capture of Bizerta and Tunis the extreme tip of the Cape Bon peninsula was in Allied hands. The Axis forces had broken suddenly and absolutely. No evacuation on any large scale was possible—the British naval blockade of the whole coast line was complete. In the last week of the fighting 248,000 prisoners, the majority of them Germans, were captured. Von Arnim and his staff surrendered near Zaghuan. The commander of the Italian forces was also taken prisoner.

So the Axis lost its last foothold in Africa, and the British Prime Minister, addressing the American Congress, was able to say, "We have struck the enemy a blow which is the equal of Stalingrad."

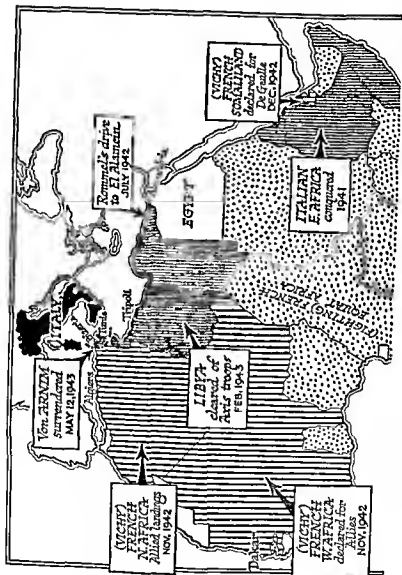


THE share of two of its divisions in the final break-through to Tunis was a fitting end to the Eighth Army's last campaign in North Africa, which began with the attack at El Alamein in October 1942. From El Alamein to the Egyptian frontier, then across the whole width of

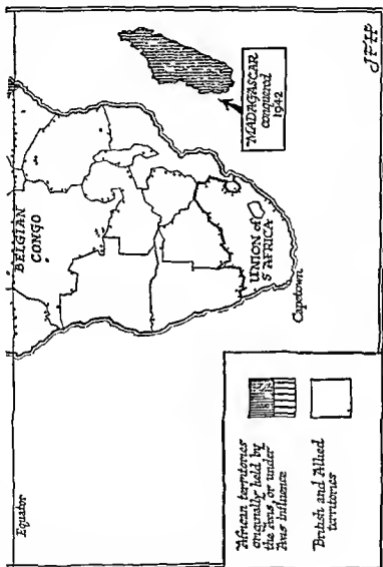
March across Africa—



Libya and up the coast of Tunisia, the distance covered was some 1,800 miles. But it had not been merely a matter of ground fighting. The whole campaign had been based on the close co-operation of land, sea, and air forces.



the African War—



The End of the African War—

WITH the defeat of Von Arnim's forces in the north-eastern tip of Tunisia the war in Africa was ended. In Mr. Churchill's words to the U.S. Congress, "We have arrived at a milestone in the war. We can say: One continent redeemed."

The African war began with Italy's entry into the war in 1940. In August of that year Italian forces, operating from Abyssinia, invaded and occupied British Somaliland. A month later they crossed the frontier from Libya into Egypt. In December, General Wavell's army took the offensive, driving the Italians back into Libya and taking Benghazi.

Early in 1941 operations against Italian East Africa were begun from both north and south. Addis Ababa, the Abyssinian capital, was entered on 6th April, and six weeks later the Duke of Aosta, in command of the Italian main forces, surrendered at Amba Alagi. Save for small isolated bodies of the enemy mopped up later in the year, Mussolini's East African empire was under Allied control.

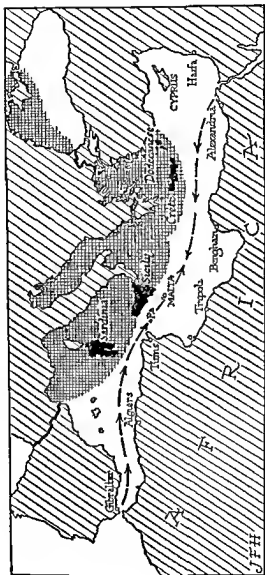
Meantime Rommel, with German reinforcements, had come to the aid of the Italians in Libya, and driven back the British Imperial forces (weakened by the despatch of troops to Greece) to the Egyptian frontier. Tobruk was invested. In November 1941 the Eighth

Army again took the offensive, relieved Tobruk, and forced Rommel to retreat 300 miles to Jedabia. In January 1942 he struck back, advancing as far as Gazala ; and four months later resumed his offensive, this time advancing 200 miles into Egypt, to El Alamein.

The story of his final defeat has just been told in the preceding pages.

Madagascar was conquered from the Vichy French during 1942 ; and the Allied landings in North Africa in November of that year ended Axis influence in the vast French North-west African territories.

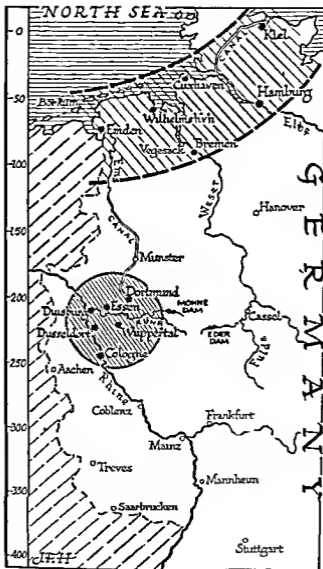
The total Axis casualties in all these campaigns, said Mr. Attlee in the House of Commons (May 1943) were 227,000 Germans, 400,000 Italians, and 200,000 native Africans fighting on the Italian side in Abyssinia and Somaliland. The total Allied losses were 220,000.



Opening the Mediterranean—

ONE immediate result of the expulsion of the Axis from North Africa (and of the great Allied air superiority which had been a powerful factor in achieving this) was the reopening of the Mediterranean, and the consequent saving in shipping which the shorter journey to Suez, the Middle East, and the Far East now made possible. The opening of the sea to Allied shipping followed on ceaseless operations by the Navy in all this central zone. Between July 1942 and May 1943 (said the First Lord of the Admiralty in July) 346 enemy ships, of 860 000 tons, were sunk on Rommel's and Von Arnim's supply lines to Libya and Tunisia.

The four main island outposts which formed the front line of the Axis defences of southern Europe—Sardinia, Sicily, Crete, and the Dodecanese—now became the targets of unceasing air attack by the Allies.



The Air Attack on Germany (I)—

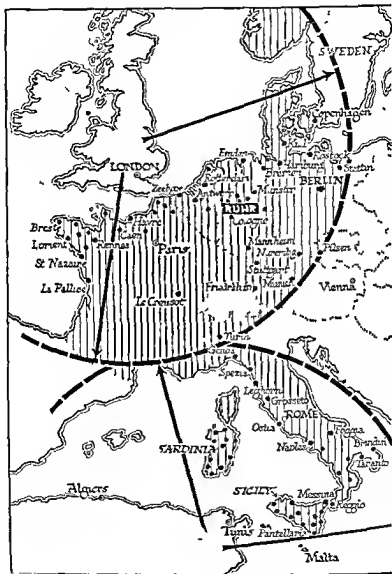
BOMBER COMMAND's offensive against western Germany, reinforced from the beginning of the year by the U.S. Air Force, was more and more intensified as the months went by in 1943. By June, nearly as great a weight of bombs was dropped on Germany in a single month as the Luftwaffe had dropped on Britain during the whole of 1941.

Two main areas were the targets of the heaviest and most persistent attacks—the industrial area of the Ruhr (see following map) and the coastal belt of ports and naval bases from Emden to Kiel. It is impossible even to list here the long series of day and night attacks which made this offensive against Germany an attack of such concentration as had never before been equalled in air warfare.

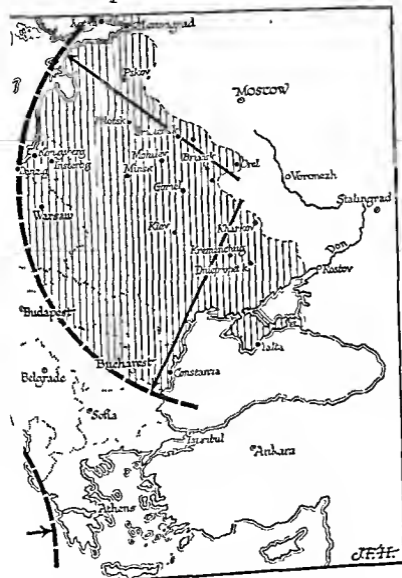
A raid of outstanding daring was that carried out by nineteen Lancaster bombers, on 16th May, on the Mohne and Eder dams, just east of the Ruhr valley. Vast torrents of water swept down to Cassel from the Eder, and from the Mohne the floods overflowed into the towns of the Ruhr.

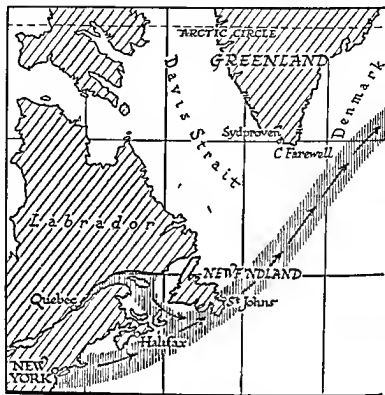
The Air Attack on Germany (2)—

THE Ruhr towns—Essen, home of the Krupp factories, Duisburg Dortmund, Wuppertal—and the neighbouring Rhine cities of Dusseldorf and Cologne were again and again the objective of bombing attacks of ever-increasing weight. The contrast between the intensity of these attacks and of those made by the Luftwaffe during the first months of 1943 on Britain is illustrated by the official statement, in June, that while during the first 170 days and nights of the year (1st January to 19th June) the Germans lost 217 (out of less than 1400) planes over Britain, they dropped in the whole of that period little more than half the 2,000 tons of bombs dropped by the R A F on Dortmund in one hour on the night of 23rd May. In that raid thirty eight R A F bombers were lost.



on Europe—



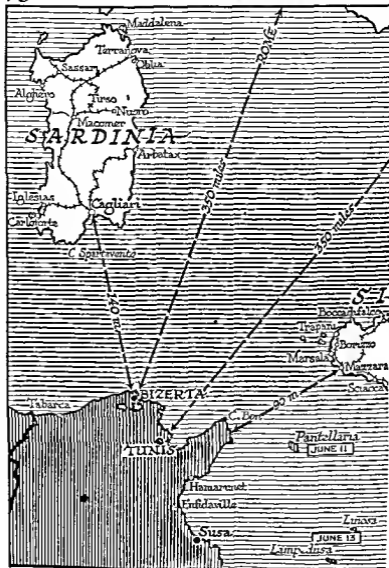


In his speech at the Guildhall on the last day of June, Mr. Churchill stressed the "two great battles won by the Allies"—the battle in Tunisia, and "another victory no less notable, the battle fought in May in the Atlantic against the U-boats." In May, he said, the German Admiralty had made "extreme exertions" against the convoys from America to Britain. (German concentration on the U-boat weapon had been indicated three months before by the appointment of Admiral Doenitz,

the Atlantic—



the U-boat specialist, as Naval Commander-in-Chief.) Long lines of U-boats were spread to meet the convoys, fifteen or twenty of them concentrating in an attack. These efforts had ended in the total defeat of the Germans. More than thirty U-boats had certainly been destroyed during May, and since the middle of that month "scarcely a merchant ship has been sunk in the whole of the North Atlantic."



Southern Europe begins—



The Attack on Southern Europe begins—

THE conquest of Tunisia gave the Allies a secure base for the opening of an offensive against southern Europe; and the rounding up of the last of Von Arnim's forces had hardly been completed before a heavy and continuous air offensive began against the ports and airfields of southern Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia. The opening of the Sicilian Channel had raised the siege of Malta, which at once became one of the most important fighter-bases in the scheme of Allied operations.

The Italian fortified island of Pantellaria, in the middle of the Channel, was the target of two weeks' bombardment, by warships as well as aircraft. It surrendered on 11th June; and the smaller islands of Lampedusa and Linosa, to the south, quickly followed suit. The Sicilian Channel was now entirely cleared. An official statement on the last day of June said that Allied shipping in "Bomb Alley," as the channel had hitherto been called, now had a complete "air umbrella" along the whole course.

The main weight of Allied bombing attacks was then directed on Sicily. The ports and harbours along its coast—north, south, east, and west—and the airfields in every part of the interior, were unremittingly raided. The ferry ports connecting the islands with the Italian mainland, and the railways on the mainland itself, were the objectives of specially heavy attacks. Submarines

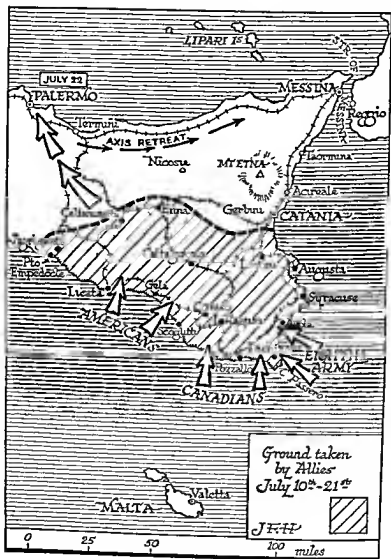
and warships, as well as aircraft, played their part in cutting the island's lines of supply. The mainland bases—Naples in particular—were heavily bombed.

But despite this concentration of bombing attacks the enemy was still in doubt as to where the actual blow at Europe was going to fall. The "war of nerves," in fact, was now being used against Hitler.

In the middle of June, His Majesty the King visited the armies in North Africa.

On 10th July the long-hoped-for invasion of Europe began. American, Canadian, and British forces landed at various points along the south-eastern coast of Sicily, between Licata and Cape Passero, and rapidly consolidated their positions.

It rapidly became clear that the Italian forces in the island were putting up only a half-hearted resistance. On 25th July Mussolini resigned, and King Victor Emanuel asked Marshal Badoglio to form a government. The first of the Dictators had fallen. . . .



Advance in Sicily—

MORE than 2,000 ships carried the Allied forces to the beaches of Sicily, and there was also the greatest number of airborne troops ever taking part in one operation. The Americans were on the left, in the Licata-Gela area; the Canadians went ashore near Cape Passero, and the British Eighth Army landed on the eastern coast of the island. By the first evening the Eighth Army had taken Syracuse, and shortly afterwards Augusta. The Americans met with fierce resistance near Gela, where a German armoured division was engaged, but after breaking it their advance north and north-west was rapid. One after another of the enemy's airfields were taken, and within twelve days of the landings nearly half the island, and 40,000 prisoners, were in Allied hands. In front of Catania the Eighth Army had to fight its way yard by yard against a determined defence. They took the town on 5th August.

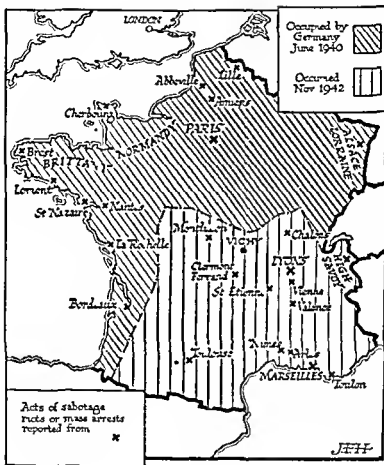
On 22nd July the Americans, striking right across the centre of the island, took Palermo, Sicily's most important port, and the fifth largest in Italy. The Axis forces to the west—all those, at least, not already in retreat along the northern coast road to Messina—were thus isolated. During the first two weeks of August Americans, Canadians, and British fought side by side to break the last enemy defence line around Mt Etna. On 16th August Messina was taken. The whole of Sicily was in Allied hands.



France Resurgent—

LENGTHY negotiations between General Giraud's administration in North Africa and the French National Committee in London resulted at last in General de Gaulle's arrival in Algiers at the end of May. Discussions between the two generals began at once, and on 3rd June it was announced that a Committee of National Liberation had been formed, with Generals Giraud and de Gaulle as chairmen. Many changes were made in administrative posts in North Africa, General Catroux succeeding M. Peyrouton as Governor of Algeria, and General Nogues vacating his post in Morocco.

There ensued protracted discussions on the question of the reform and control of the French army. These were brought to an end by Allied pressure, and a permanent military committee was then set up, consisting of Generals Giraud and de Gaulle and the chiefs of staff of army, naval, and air forces. On 31st July the unification of all French forces was announced, General Giraud becoming Commander-in-Chief, and General de Gaulle president of the Council of National Defence. Early in July General Giraud visited Washington as the guest of the U.S. Government, later visiting London. In August, during the Quebec Conference between President Roosevelt and the British Prime Minister, recognition of the Committee of National Liberation by the Allied Governments was at length announced.



Resistance in France—

THE struggle against the Nazis in France itself spread to the southern zone occupied by Germany in November 1942. To meet Hitler's demands for workers the Vichy Government passed a law on 5th February 1943, imposing two years' compulsory labour on all persons between the ages of 20 and 23. At the end of March the law was extended to apply to men between the ages of 24 and 31, with certain exemptions. Finally, in May, Laval announced that all persons aged 21 were, without exception, to be sent to Germany. Everywhere there was bitter resistance to the decree—strikes, demonstrations, and acts of sabotage. In Paris and other cities the activities of German press-gangs led to street fighting and mass arrests. The Nazi aim was clearly not only to secure workers for Germany, but to clear the country of active sections of the population before the liberating armies of the Allies should arrive.

In March the Fighting French headquarters in London received the first *communiqués* from "G.H.Q. of French guerrillas somewhere in France." Thousands of young workers, many armed, were at that date reported to have taken refuge in the mountains of High Savoy.



The Balkans:

(2) Bulgaria—

KING BORIS of Bulgaria visited Hitler at the Fuhrer's headquarters on 31st March. If Hitler's intention had been to bring Bulgaria more actively into the war, particularly on the eastern front, he was disappointed. Popular feeling in Bulgaria was still strongly against any declaration of war on Russia, and no less than four pro-Nazi political leaders were assassinated at different times. But Bulgarian troops took part with other Axis forces in the attempt (*cf* preceding map) to liquidate the partisans in Yugoslavia.

It was stated in June, when Allied invasion of the Balkans had become a possibility, that Sofia had been made the Axis operational H Q for the whole Balkan zone. After the fall of Mussolini the German Government was reported to be pressing the Bulgarians, without success, to take the place of the Italian forces occupying Greece.

Late in August, just after the announcement that he had again visited Hitler, came the news of King Boris's death.

The Balkans:

(3) Turkey—

WHILE at Cairo after the Casablanca Conference, Mr. Churchill, with the Chief of the General Staff and other military advisers, flew to Turkey and met President Inonu at Adana (30th January). The official statement afterwards issued said that the subjects discussed included the ways in which Britain and the U.S. could help Turkey "to consolidate her own general defensive security"; and "the present situation in Europe and particularly in those regions in which Turkey is directly interested."

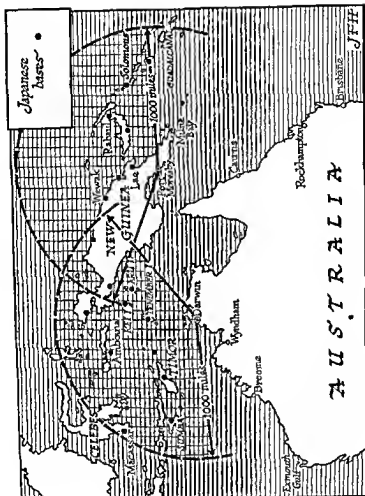
At the congress of the Turkish People's Party in June, however, the President of the Republic and the Turkish Prime Minister both made speeches stressing Turkey's intention of maintaining neutrality.



Consolidation in New Guinea—

THERE was relatively little land fighting in New Guinea after the repulse, at the end of 1942, of the Japanese attack on Port Moresby, and the establishment of Australian bases on the east coast of the island in the Buna-Gona area. The whole south-eastern end of New Guinea was consolidated as an advanced outpost of Australian defence, and as a taking-off place for air and sea offensives against the chain of Japanese positions along the northern coast, from Wewak to Lae, and in the islands of New Britain and New Ireland. Again and again Japanese convoys were attacked. Early in March one such convoy, making for New Guinea, was attacked in the Bismarck Straits, and all its 22 ships—10 warships and 12 transports—sunk or left sinking. In addition, more than 100 of the 150 aircraft used by the enemy were destroyed.

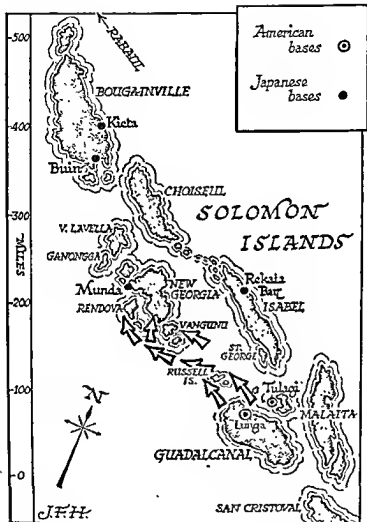
At the end of June, simultaneously with their offensive in the Solomons (see Map 385), American forces occupied the Trobriand Islands, and landed south of Salamaua, in New Guinea. With the Australians they advanced on that place. Mubo, east of Wau, was captured during the second week in July, and a steady advance continued towards Salamaua.



Air War North of Australia—

AN unremitting air offensive against the 3,000-mile wide perimeter of islands held by the Japanese to the north of Australia was the main feature of the war in the south-west Pacific during the first part of 1943. The Japanese bases in Sumba, Celebes, Timor, and Amboina, in the Dutch East Indies ; in the Kei and Aru Islands, south of New Guinea ; in western and northern New Guinea ; and at Rabaul (New Britain) and in the Solomon Islands, were bombed again and again. Rabaul, in particular, as the main Japanese stronghold in the eastern islands, was the target for repeated heavy attacks. A notably successful attack was that made on Wewak (northern New Guinea) in mid-August, when a large concentration of Japanese planes was found on the ground, and over 200 destroyed.

The farthest south of Japanese raids on Australia was on Exmouth Gulf, on the west coast.

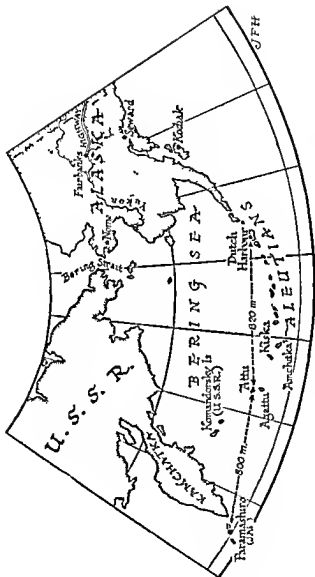


Offensive in the Solomons—

DURING February the Japanese announced the complete withdrawal of their forces from Guadalcanal. The U.S. troops thus added a second decisive victory to that just won by the Australians in south-eastern New Guinea.

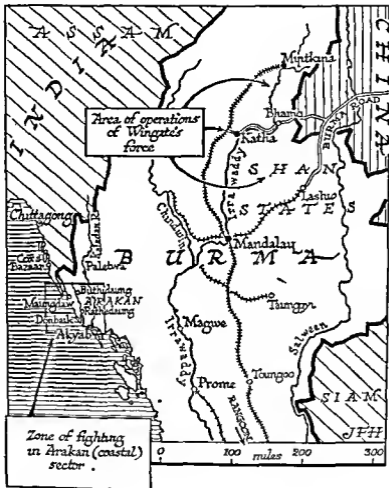
At the end of June, American forces, from their bases in Guadalcanal, moved up the Solomons chain to the New Georgia group, taking Rendova and Vangunu islands and landing on New Georgia itself. The main objective here was the Japanese port and airfield of Munda, which was heavily bombarded from the new positions on Rendova, and attacked by troops working their way along the New Georgia coast. Munda was captured on 6th August, and a few days later American forces landed on Vella Lavella, northernmost island of the New Georgia group. Before the end of the month it was announced that the enemy had been cleared from all the New Georgian islands.

Very heavy air attacks were made during July on Japanese shipping in various anchorages in the Solomons; by the middle of the month three Japanese cruisers and thirteen destroyers were among the vessels sunk.



The North Pacific—

AMERICAN operations in the North Pacific during the first six months of 1943 were directed chiefly at the encirclement of Kiska Island, the base in the western Aleutians seized by the Japanese in June 1942. Amchitka Island, south of Kiska, was occupied by American forces in April, and a series of bombing raids made on Kiska itself. In May an assault was begun on Attu Island, 200 miles west of Kiska, which had also been held by the Japanese. Before the end of the month the whole enemy garrison had been captured or destroyed. In July came the news of a heavy bombing raid on Paramushiro Island, the Japanese base south of Kamchatka. This was the first raid on Japanese "home" territory (Paramushiro is the northernmost of the Kurile Islands) since the attack on Tokyo by American airmen in April 1942. Kiska was evacuated by the Japanese, and occupied by American and Canadian troops in mid-August.



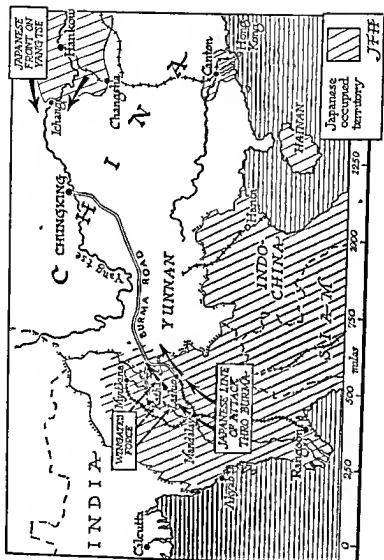
The Campaign in Burma (I)—

THE advance from India into the Arakan district of Burma, which began in December, quickly reached the towns of Donbaik and Rathedaung. But no further advance could be made against the port of Akyab, the main objective of the expedition. In March and April the Japanese struck westwards from the line of the Kaladan River, and the British and Indian forces were compelled to withdraw towards Maungdaw and Buthidaung. In May these two places were also evacuated.

Constant bombing raids were carried out from Indian bases on Burmese railways, bridges, supply dumps, and airfields.

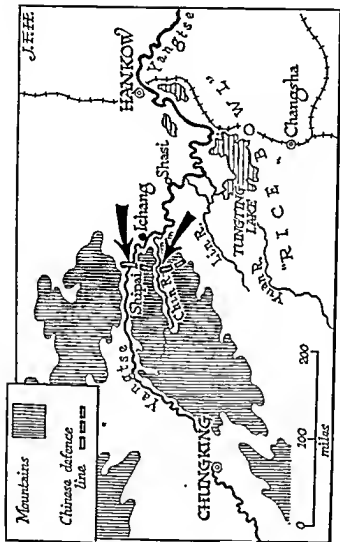
News was officially released in May of an expedition led by Brigadier Wingate, which for three months had carried on wrecking activities on the Japanese lines of communication in North Burma. British, Indian, and Gurkha troops took part, their supplies being conveyed to them by air. They cut the Mandalay-Myitkina railway at various points, destroyed bridges, and surprised enemy posts, penetrating as far as the Northern Shan States—that is, to the area of the Burmese section of the Burma Road into China.

It was announced in July that Field-Marshal Wavell, Commander-in-Chief in India, had been appointed Viceroy in succession to Lord Linlithgow.



The Campaign in Burma (2)—

THE importance of the depredations carried out by Wingate's "Chindits," as his force was called, can best be estimated by a glance at a map showing Japanese communications in Burma, and the Burma Road to Chunking. A Japanese advance along the road, through Yunnan, against China would necessarily depend on complete control of the lines of supply from Burma. It was against these lines that Wingate's force operated.



The Chinese War—

IN July, China entered upon her seventh year of war. A few weeks earlier her armies had given fresh proof of their indomitable courage by decisively smashing a full-scale attempt by the Japanese to force a way through the Yangtse River gorges toward Chunking. The Japanese offensive was based on their westernmost outpost, Ichang, and was aimed at hill positions south of the Yangtse and on either side of the Chin River. It failed everywhere, and the Chinese, counter-attacking, reached points on the Yangtse south-east of Ichang. American planes rendered valuable assistance in this campaign.

Earlier the Japanese had carried out a policy of devastation in the fertile "Rice Bowl" area south of the middle Yangtse by breaking down the dykes of the Tungting Lake and flooding large districts.

The National Income—

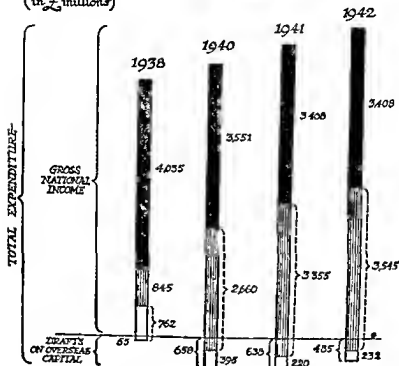
THE national income is the sum total of the income received by all the individuals and institutions comprising the community. From a total of £4,490,000,000 in 1938, it rose to £7,384,000,000 in 1942. This large increase was partly due to a rise in prices and wages, which is the same thing as a fall in the value of money, but it was also largely due to an increase in the *real* or *physical* volume of the national income, as the result of more employment and harder work.

The chart shows how the different varieties of income have changed during the war. The rent of land and buildings has hardly increased at all, while salaries show a smaller increase than either wages or profits and interest. It should be remembered that all these figures are before the payment of taxation, which has been heavily increased.

The figures are those of "net national income at factor cost" given in the Budget White Paper, *An Analysis of the Sources of War Finance and an Estimate of the National Income and Expenditure in 1938, 1940, 1941, and 1942* (Cmd. 6438).

Consumption by
the publicGovernment
expenditureMaintenance
& increase of
domestic capital

(in £ millions)



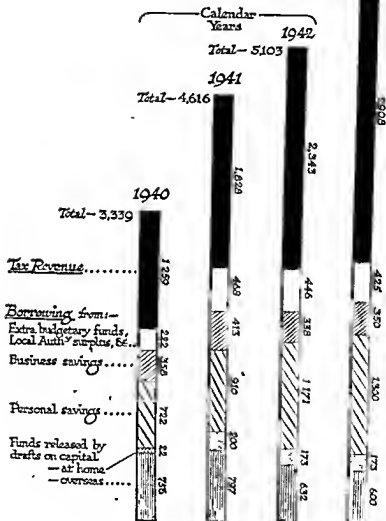
The National Expenditure—

THIS chart shows estimates of how the nation spends its income. All the figures have been adjusted for changes in the value of money since 1938, so that they represent changes in physical magnitude.

In 1938 the community spent £5,642,000,000. Of this total £4,035,000,000 was spent by the public on its own consumption, and £845,000,000 was spent by the Government. The balance of £762,000,000 was spent on the maintenance (*i.e.* repair and replacement) of the existing capital equipment of the country and on increasing the total capital. Nearly the whole of this expenditure was met out of gross income, but it was necessary to draw on accumulated overseas capital to the small extent of £55,000,000.




By 1942 the total expenditure of the community had increased to the equivalent (at 1938 prices) of £7,185,000,000. Expenditure by the public on consumption had shrunk from £4,035,000,000 to £3,408,000,000. Government expenditure had more than quadrupled, from £845,000,000 to £3,545,000,000. Expenditure on the maintenance and increase of capital was no more than £232,000,000, which was not enough to maintain the existing equipment of the country, let alone to add to it. Of the total expenditure, all but £485,000,000 was met out of gross income, but this sum had to be provided by the realization of overseas capital.

Financial Year 1943-44 (Budget estimates)
Total—5,756



Where the Money Comes From—

THIS chart shows where the Government has found the money to meet its expenses. The total expenditure has increased from £3,339,000,000 in 1940 to an estimate of £5,756,000,000 in the financial year ending 31st March 1944. Tax revenue has increased by nearly one and a half times. Personal savings have nearly doubled. The savings of business firms have remained steady in spite of the payment of Excess Profits Tax and other taxes. The second item, "extra-budgetary funds, local authority surpluses, etc.," very largely represents the borrowing by the Exchequer of the war-time profits of bodies such as the Unemployment Fund. "Funds released by drafts on capital" represents the cash resources obtained by people who have sold some of their capital assets during the war, such as dollar securities or traders' stocks.

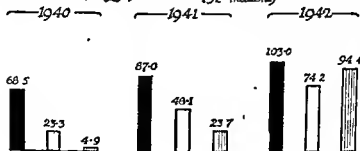
Britain  Canada  U.S. 

ABSOLUTE AMOUNTS
(in £ millions)

(Conversion rates — U.S. \$4 = Can. \$4 15 = £1)



PER HEAD (in £s) (Populations taken at 47, 11½ and 132 millions)



War Expenditures-

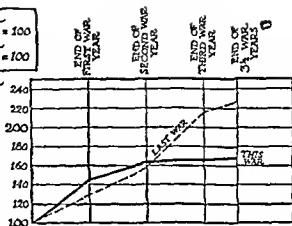
This chart shows the trend of expenditure in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. (It brings up to date a chart in Volume 5 of the *Atlas-History*.) In total amount, American war expenditures in 1942 were nearly three times the British. But in amounts per head of population the United Kingdom was, in 1942, still in the lead. If expenditure were reckoned as a proportion of the national income (that is, of the total resources available for spending), the British lead would be greater.

Very nearly a quarter of the total Canadian expenditures in 1942 were incurred directly on behalf of the United Kingdom.

For last War—
 July 1914 = 100
 For this War—
 Aug. 1939 = 100

WHOLESALE PRICES

(Statist' Index)



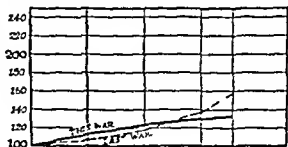
COST OF LIVING

(M of Labour Index)



WAGE RATES

(Prof Bowley's Index)

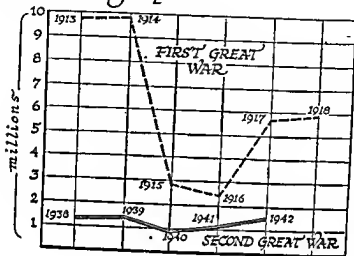


Price Movements Then and Now—

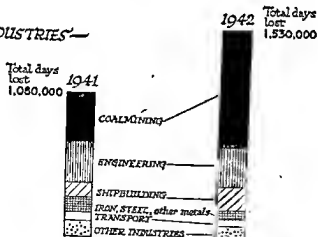
THESE three graphs give some idea of how successful the Government's policy in combating inflation has been. The rise in prices has so far been much less than in the comparable period of the last war, and though most people would consider that the actual cost of living has risen more than the official index indicates, they would also agree that it has risen much less than in the last war, and that the price of necessities has been kept stable.

The third graph shows that wages have more than kept pace with the rise in the official cost of living index. It should be noted that the index is of wage *rates*. Actual earnings have risen far more because of the considerable amount of overtime and Sunday work that is done.

Number of Working Days lost:—

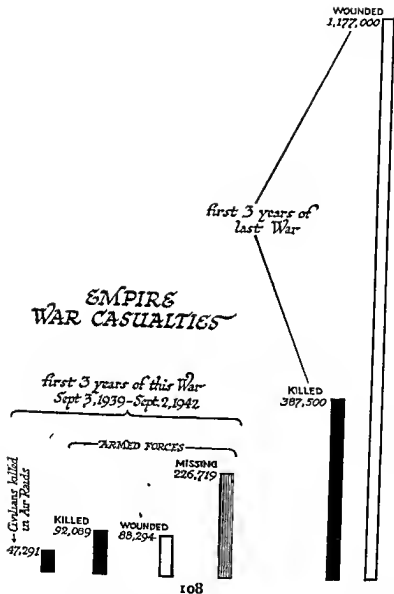


INDUSTRIES—



Trade Disputes: A Comparison—

THE number of working days lost through industrial disputes has so far been considerably less in this war than in the last. The bottom diagram shows the industries that are contributing most to the loss of working days in this war.



Three Years' War Casualties—

A COMPARISON between casualties among the armed forces of the Empire in the first three years of the two wars is given in this diagram. Split up among the different parts of the Empire, this war's casualties have been as follows :—

Armed Forces	Killed †	Missing	Wounded	Prisoners of War	Total
United Kingdom *	73,477	73,403	50,163	76,801	273,844
Canada .	3,142	2,058	1,357	3,265	10,422
Australia .	6,197	24,193	13,700	7,874	51,964
New Zealand .	3,219	8,860	7,123	6,253	25,455
South Africa	1,439	13,359	3,229	4,597	22,624
India † .	3,256	26,289	9,163	3,236	101,979
Colonies .	1,334	22,366	1,499	5,439	30,638
Total British Empire	92,052	225,719	83,294	107,891	514,956

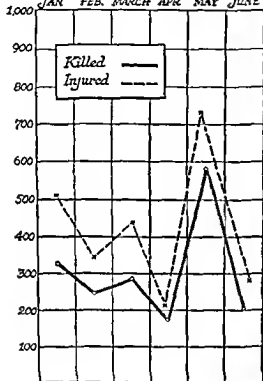
* Including overseas personnel serving in those forces.

† Including casualties to the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery.

‡ Including died of wounds and injuries.

1943

JAN FEB. MARCH APR MAY JUNE



Highest figure
during 1942
(April)

Average
monthly
figure
1942

Civilian Casualties in Air Raids—

ENEMY air attacks on Britain were for the most part confined to hit and run raids on coastal towns in the south and in East Anglia. On 17th January from 55 to 60 bombers attacked London, though only a few penetrated the defences, 10 were destroyed. South Wales, the Midlands, and Scotland were also raided on various dates.

The casualties in May 1943 were higher than for any month during 1942, excepting April.

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